

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-24 (Canceled)

25. (New) A method of informing a vehicle's driver about the wear of a tire on the vehicle, the tire including a tread with a pattern element having a given height and forming one of a capacitor or a resistor, the capacitance of the capacitor or the resistance of the resistor being related to the height of the tread pattern by a respective equation, the method comprising the steps of:

A) causing electrical circuitry operably connected to the capacitor or the resistor to:

A1) measure the capacitance of the capacitor or the resistance of the resistor, and

A2) calculating from such measurement a height component of the tread pattern element in accordance with the respective equation; and

B) transmitting to a location near the driver a signal related to the calculated height component for informing the driver about the tire's wear.

26. (New) The method according to claim 25 wherein steps A and B are performed continuously.

27. (New) The method according to claim 25 wherein the capacitor or the resistor is connected to electrical circuitry disposed in an acquisition module which rotates with the tire in step A.

28. (New) The method according to claim 27 wherein the tire is mounted on a wheel, the acquisition module being mounted on the tire in step A.

29. (New) The method according to claim 27 wherein the tire is mounted on a wheel, the acquisition module being mounted on the wheel in step A.

30. (New) The method according to claim 27 wherein the acquisition module is mounted on a fixed part of the vehicle so the tire rotates relative to the acquisition module in step A.

31. (New) The method according to claim 27 wherein the capacitor or the resistor comprises part of a passive circuit on the tire which is energized by an interrogating circuit of the electrical circuitry in step A.

32. (New) The method according to claim 31 wherein the capacitor or the resistor is operably connected to the electrical circuitry by induction in step A.

33. (New) The method according to claim 25 wherein the capacitance or resistance is generated by electrically conducting plates in the tire pattern element,

the plates defining armatures and being mutually separated by rubber of the tire pattern element.

34. (New) A method of continuously informing a vehicle's driver about the wear of a tire mounted on a wheel of the vehicle, the tire including a tread with a pattern element having a given height and forming a capacitor, the capacitance of the capacitor or the resistance of the resistor being related to the height of the tread pattern element by an equation, the method comprising the steps of:

- A) measuring the capacitance of the capacitor or the resistance of the resistor;
- B) calculating from such measurement the height of the tread pattern element in accordance with the equation;
- C) transmitting to a location near the driver a signal related to the calculated height component for informing the driver about the tire's wear;
- D) performing step A by an interrogation circuit which is operably connected by inductance to a passive resonance circuit containing the capacitor or the resistor for determining an in-tune frequency of the passive resonance circuit; and
- E) performing steps A-D continuously.

35. (New) The method according to claim 34 wherein the tire rotates relative to the interrogation circuit during steps A-E.

36. (New) The method according to claim 34 wherein the acquisition circuit rotates with the tire during steps A-E.